

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the First Office Action mailed on August 26, 2002. Reconsideration is hereby requested.

Following the Remarks/Argument section of this response is a clean version of each replacement paragraph and amended or rewritten claim, followed by a marked-up version of such replacement paragraphs and amended or rewritten claims showing the changes made.

By the present amendment, the abstract has been shortened in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the drawing has been revised in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Claim 19 has been amended in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, and Claim 12 has been amended in accordance with paragraphs 5-8 of the Office Action. The allowance of Claims 1-11, 18 and 20, and the allowability of Claims 14-17 is noted. The rejections of Claims 12-13 and 19 will now be discussed.

CLAIM 19

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because it was unclear what limitation is being added by the claim. Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error by adding "said kit includes" after the word "wherein" to properly preface the limitation originally set forth in the remainder of the claim.

CLAIMS 12 and 13

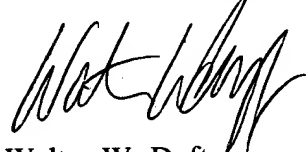
Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stafford (US 2,885,082) in view of Plaisier (WO 95/19214). Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the split leaf filter element therein includes various means for connecting the first, second and third edge sections thereof to other structure. Under 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph,

these means for elements must be interpreted to encompass the corresponding structure, material or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof. The cited references fail to disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter as a whole. Claim 13 is allowable because of the amendment to Claim 12, from which it depends.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and requests that Notices of Allowability and Allowance be duly issued.

A Petition for Extension of Time and an Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter W. Duft', written in a cursive style.

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MARKED UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

AND AMENDED OR REWRITTEN CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Marked up replacement Abstract page 15:

A split leaf filter includes a filter shell having disposed therein a sluice manifold, at least one outlet manifold, a vibrator bar, and an array of parallel spaced split leaf assemblies. Each split leaf assembly has at least two split leaf elements arranged in coplanar adjacent relationship [(twin split leaf design), and in some designs there may be three or more coplanar split leaf elements per split leaf assembly (multiple split leaf design)]. Each split leaf element has a first edge section connected to one of the outlet manifolds, [and] a second edge section that is generally parallel to the first edge section and connected to the vibrator bar, [. Each split leaf element also has third, and fourth edge sections that are generally perpendicular to the first and second edge sections. In twin split leaf designs, the] a third edge section [is] longitudinally interconnected with corresponding edge sections of split leaf elements in a set or section of adjacent split leaf assemblies, and a [. Each such set or section represents fewer than all of the split leaf assemblies disposed in the split leaf filter. The] fourth edge section [is] arranged in adjacent parallel relationship along the substantial entirety thereof with a corresponding edge section of another split leaf element of the same split leaf assembly. [The outermost split leaf elements of multiple split leaf designs also have this edge configuration. For interior split leaf elements of multiple split leaf designs, both the third and fourth edge sections are arranged in adjacent parallel relationship along the substantial entirety thereof with a corresponding edge section of another split leaf element of the same split leaf assembly.]

IN THE CLAIMS

Marked up version of rewritten Claim 12:

1 12. A split leaf element for use in forming a split leaf assembly in a split leaf filter,
2 said split leaf element comprising:

3 a first edge section adapted with means for mounting said split leaf filter [to mount] to
4 an outlet manifold in said split leaf filter;

5 a second edge section generally parallel to said first edge section and adapted with means
6 for mounting said split leaf filter [to mount] to a vibrator bar in said split leaf filter;

7 a third edge section adapted with means for interconnecting said split leaf filter [for
8 interconnection] with a third edge section of a split leaf element of an adjacent split leaf
9 assembly in said split leaf filter; and

10 a fourth edge section that is adapted to be arranged in adjacent parallel relationship along
11 the substantial entirety thereof with a corresponding fourth edge section of a mating split leaf
12 element of a common split leaf assembly.

Marked up version of rewritten Claim 19:

1 19. A split leaf assembly kit in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said kit includes
2 means for removably securing said one or more leaf spacer bars to said spacer tab.